The said area forms part of Survey Nos. 65 and 75 of Taralu village, Uttarhalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, which was handed over to the Forest Department by the Revenue Department on 19.5.1995 as per Notification No. RD 370 / LGE 93 dated 8.6.1994. This area falls within a radius of one kilometer around the boundary of the Bannerghatta National Park, which is reserved as "Safe Zone" for protecting the wildlife. The Forest Department, Karnataka and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has requested the State as well as the Union Home Ministry to cancel the allotment to the Central Reserve Police Force for firing range keeping in view the conservation of natural resources. The Ministry has also taken up the issue with the Director General, Central Reserve Police Force with a request to develop the firing range at some other location away from the wildlife habitat.

(e) The Ministry has not received any proposal for forestry or environment clearance of this project from the State Government/project authorities.

White tigers in Delhi Zoo

3571. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the white tigers born last year in Delhi Zoo is dead;

(b) if so, the reasons for its death; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure increase of white tigers in Delhi Zoo?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Three white tiger cubs born on 16th June, 2000 died on 20.6.2000, 22.6.2000 and 10.7.2000 respectively. The mother disowned the cubs and stopped feeding. All efforts were made to save the cubs by hand rearing in the zoo hospital. However, all the three cubs developed various complications and died on the dates mentioned above. Measures to ensure conservation of white tigers in Delhi Zoo include improved upkeep and better health care of animals.

Untidy maintenance of Sibpur Botanical Garden

3572. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sibpur Botanical Garden is being maintained in a very untidy way; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to improve conditions of the garden, to make it more attractive for the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. the Indian Botanical Garden, Sibpur is being maintained properly. *Ex-situ* conservation of more than 12,000 trees, shrubs and climbers representing over 1400 species as well as conservation of a number of rare, endangered and threatened plants have been undertaken. The Palm House, Fern House and Succulent House are well maintained. In the Glass House and the Orchid House, a number of Cacti and Orchids are multiplied and maintained. For further improvement of upkeep of the garden, regular cleaning, planting of annual and seasonal flowers and access regulation is also being undertaken.

Environmental clearance to Rajasthan Proposals

3573. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of proposals sent by the Rajasthan Government for environmental and forest clearance stating since when they have been pending;

(b) the present status of these proposals;

(c) whether delay is being caused in approval of certain mining proposals in the State; and

(d) by when clearance is likely to be given by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During 1998 to June 2001, the Ministry has received 137 proposals for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the Government of Rajasthan. Out of those proposals, 78 have been sanctioned, 7 have been rejected, 8 have been rejected for want of information, 15 have been returned/withdrawn by the State Government, 13 are pending with State Government for furnishing essential information and 16 proposals are under consideration of the Ministry.

As regards environmental clearance, 19 proposals were received. Out of those proposals, 12 have been sanctioned and 7 are pending with the Ministry for want of information from Project Authorities.